

Green Living and Design Tour Features Sustainable Homes and Businesses in Our Community

The Fourth Annual Sustainable Sandhills Green Living & Design Tour held on Saturday, November 7 provided more than 250 people access to 28 green homes and businesses across four counties. Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, vendors, site owners and attendees in Harnett, Hoke, Cumberland and Moore Counties.



This event would not have been possible without our sponsors: Lumbee River EMC, Sustainable Fort Bragg, ICAN, Comfort Made Blinds, Sandhills Energy, Comfort South, Rainbow Cycles, Pinehurst Toyota, Nature's Own, Stewart Construction & Development Co., First Bank, Opulence of Southern Pines, Bill Reaves Construction Co., Moore County Farmer's Market, The Ride Peddler, Alternative Energy Concepts and Play It Again Sports of Aberdeen.

Thank you to our other green vendors/exhibitors and locations: Moore Exposure, Green Goods, Raft Swamp Farms, The Apple Crate, The Apple Crate II, JDM Roofing, Butler Farms, Caviness & Cates Communities, Effect Energy, Benchmark Company, Floating Island Southeast, Travis Alfrey Woodworking, Raven's Wing Healing Center, Farm Up The Street, Cottage Garden Farm, Bountiful Backyards of Moore, Mr. GreenJeans Lawn & Garden, Trek Ride and the Poplar Night Spot.

And special thanks to all the green home owners that invited the community into their homes. A few easy green living and design tips from the event include:

- Use cloth napkins instead of paper and throw them in with a regular load of laundry. Have different colored napkins rings for each member of the family and only wash when needed.
- Eliminate disposable kitchenware, including paper, plastic and Styrofoam. All of this is used one time and sent to the landfill.
- Change regular light bulbs to compact florescent bulbs (CFL's). CFL's are four to five times more efficient and reduce energy consumption.
- Install ultra-low-flush toilets or place a plastic bottle filled with water in your toilet tank to reduce the amount of water used in each flush.
- Install low-flow aerators on every faucet. This could save you as much as 1 gallon of water every minute you use them.

- If your house has a crawl space, insulate all exposed water pipes. Close refrigerator doors immediately after each use.
- Install low-flow showerheads. This could save as much as 2.5 gallons per minute of use.
- Check outdoor faucets, pipes and hoses for leaks and repair them.
- Collect rainwater from your roof to use on your plants and garden.



For more information about green living and design, Sustainable Sandhills projects and upcoming events, please visit

<http://sustainablesandhills.org>